



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Idaho Red Meat Production Up 4 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for January 2006 totaled 23.5 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. January production was up 20 percent from the 19.6 million pounds produced in December.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in January 2005. Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 5 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.5 million pounds, 6 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 55,700 head, down 18 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was 39 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.92 million head, 5 percent above January 2005. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 273 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.2 million pounds, was up 12 percent from January 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from January a year ago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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